

# CHAPTER 2: BACKGROUND

## 2.1 Background and History

The City of Brooklyn Park is a Minneapolis suburb in northeast Hennepin County and is bounded by the cities of Champlin, Maple Grove, Osseo, New Hope, Crystal, and Brooklyn Center. The Mississippi River forms a natural boundary along the City's entire eastern edge. The City's proximity to Minneapolis and Saint Paul has contributed significantly to residential growth and development. The 2000 census-counted population of 67,388 represented a 20% increase over the 1990 census count of 56,381. The estimated population count was 68,249 in 2001, 68,997 in 2002, 69,687 in 2003, 70,988 in 2004, 72,522 in 2005 and 74,571 in 2006. The projected population for 2007 is 75,780. Brooklyn Park is the fourth largest city in the Minneapolis / St. Paul metropolitan area and the sixth largest city in the State of Minnesota. The City incorporates an area of approximately 27 square miles.

**History:** What is now the City of Brooklyn Park was once part of the Fort Snelling military reservation in the early nineteenth century. In 1852, the Territorial Legislature of Minnesota established Hennepin County. That same year, six years prior to Minnesota becoming a State, Esra Hanscom established his homestead near where Shingle Creek now crosses Noble Avenue. In 1853 and 1854, settlers from Michigan staked claims in the area and named it Brooklyn Township after their home territory of Brooklyn, Michigan. On May 11, 1858, the first town meeting was held at the Hanscom home and Township officers were elected.

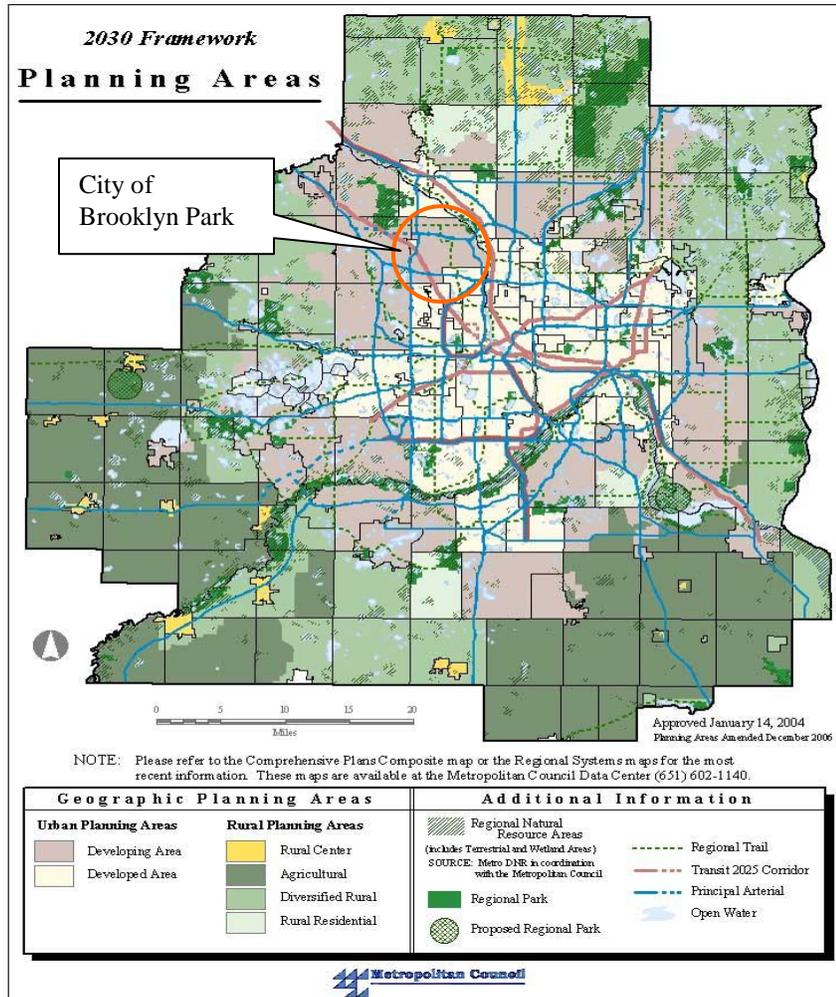
- | Historical Facts:  |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1858 first Township Officers elected</li><li>• 1941 first Planning Commission</li><li>• 1954 incorporated as a Village</li><li>• 1966 voters select Council/Manager form of Government</li></ul> |

**Growth and Development:** The City of Brooklyn Park is a growing community. The City's location, just 20 minutes from downtown Minneapolis and Saint Paul, contributes to the construction of 300 to 400 new single-family residential units in the City each year. Transportation improvements, such as the construction of the U.S. Highway 610 bridge across the Mississippi River in 1996, the construction of a four-lane parkway along 85th Avenue North in 1987 and the revamping of the intersection of Interstate 694 and Boone Avenue to a full interchange, all contribute toward a growing commercial and industrial tax base to complement the City's residential development.

The final construction of Trunk Highway 610 (T.H.610) should contribute to further commercial and residential growth in the City. The segment of T.H. 610 through Brooklyn Park was completed in the fall of 2000. Once fully completed, the 610 Corridor will link Interstate 94 in Maple Grove on the west with Interstate 35W in Mounds View on the east. The increased access, housing, and employment opportunities that will result from the T.H. 610 project will play a significant role in Brooklyn Park's future. Construction of the T.H. 610 corridor through the City is expected to produce more new jobs, millions of dollars in new investments, which will contribute millions of dollars to the local economies in the northern Twin Cities suburbs. Brooklyn Park is in an enviable position to take advantage of the growth generated by T.H.610: the City has over 200 acres of prime land ready for development adjacent to the Trunk Highway 610 corridor.

## 2.2 Planning Area Designation

The City of Brooklyn Park is designated as a “developing community” in the 2030 Regional Development Framework which is the Metropolitan Council guide to development in the 7-county metropolitan area. This designation recognizes our role to provide housing and jobs for the anticipated growth in the region.



### 2.3 Demographic Trends

The Metropolitan Council forecasts for population, households and employment are listed in table 1. The forecasts have been modified based on discussions between the City of Brooklyn Park and the Metropolitan Council.

**Table 1. Metropolitan Council Forecasts**

	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
Population	56,381	67,388	77,000	84,000	89,000
Household	20,386	24,432	28,700	32,800	35,900
Employment	16,592	23,256	28,600	38,200	53,400

**Table 3. Housing Types**

Housing Type	Census	2000		2001		2002		2003	
	Total Units	New Units	Total						
Single-Family	14,109	263	14,372	228	14,600	163	14,763	256	15,019
Two-Family	942	0	0	0	942	0	942	0	942
Townhomes	3,234	50	3,284	44	3,328	88	3,416	167	3,583
Apartments/ Condos/Senior	5,947	0	5,947	0	5,947	0	5,947	50	5,997
<b>Unit Totals</b>	<b>24,232</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>24,545</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>24,818</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>25,068</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>25,541</b>

2004		2005		2006	
New Units	Total	New Units	Total	New Units	Total
321	15,340	350	15,690	305	15,995
0	942	4	946	0	946
178	3,761	98	3,859	100	3,959
59	6,056	293	6,349	17	6,366
<b>558</b>	<b>26,099</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>26,844</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>27,966</b>